

- 2 -

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 1, 5 and 27 as follows:

sub 01  
C3  
1. (Amended) A method for the preparation of a recombinant polypeptide comprising

a) transforming a host cell an expression vector comprising:

(1) a nucleic acid sequence capable of regulating transcription in a host cell, operatively linked to

(2) a chimeric nucleic acid sequence encoding a fusion protein, the chimeric nucleic acid sequence comprising (a) a nucleic acid sequence encoding a pro-peptide derived from an autocatalytically maturing zymogen, linked in reading frame to (b) a nucleic acid sequence heterologous to the pro-peptide and encoding the recombinant polypeptide, wherein the heterologous nucleic acid sequence is located immediately downstream of the nucleic acid sequence encoding the pro-peptide; operatively linked to

(3) a nucleic acid sequence encoding a termination region functional in said host cell,

b) growing the host cell to produce said fusion protein; and

c) altering the environment of the fusion protein so that the pro-peptide is cleaved from the fusion protein to release the recombinant polypeptide.

C4  
5. (Amended) A method according to claim 1 wherein the recombinant polypeptide is hirudin or carp growth hormone.

sub 08  
C5  
27. (Amended) A chimeric nucleic acid sequence according to claim 26 wherein the chimeric sequence is as shown in SEQ.ID.NO 1. or SEQ. ID. NO. 3.